

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

Annual Meeting of the Winchester Diocesan Guild of Change-ringers.

THE Annual Festival was held at Havant on the 18th ult. The service was at the parish church, the musical portion of which was well rendered by the choir, and an eloquent address was delivered by Archdeacon Wright of Greatham. The members, to the number of one hundred, dined together at the 'Dolphin Hotel.' The Rev. A. D. Hill presided, supported by the Rev. P. Thompson, the Rev. R. F. Tompkins, and several other clergy. At the conclusion of the dinner the officers for the year were elected—*President*, Charles Churchill, Esq., of Weybridge Park; *Secretary and Treasurer*, the Rev. H. A. Spyers; and C. C. Child, Esq., was placed on the Committee. During the afternoon some excellent ringing was performed at Havant, Chichester, Hambledon, and Petersfield. A party of six-bell ringers also visited Bosham, but the bells there were found to be in a state unsuited for change-ringing.

The following bands took part in the festival:—Ashted, Leatherhead, Dorking, Cranleigh, Hursley, Farnham, Fareham, Bournemouth, Bishop's Waltham, Winchester, Godalming, Southampton, Soberton, Swanmore, West Meon, and Weybridge. The members were much pleased with the noble bells and belfry of Chichester Cathedral, where several touches of Grandsire and Stedman's Triples were rung. Why has not Chichester Diocese an Association of Change-ringers, in which there are several good bands of change-ringers, and so many good rings of bells?

The Essex Association.

A DISTRICT Meeting of the above Association was held at Waltham Abbey on Tuesday, July 24th, by kind permission of the Rev. J. Francis, who also most kindly entertained the members at his house at one o'clock, a substantial cold dinner being provided in a tent on his lawn, to which about eighteen sat down. Ringing commenced at about 2.15 with a good touch of Stedman's Triples on the fine ring of eight at the Abbey. Tenor, 19 cwt. Two other touches of Stedman's Triples, and three of Grandsire Triples, were also brought round in the course of the day, and two touches of Treble Bob were attempted, but not brought round. At 4.30 the members sat down to tea at the 'Three Tuns,' Mr. Francis presiding. Tea over, the Business Meeting was held. The minutes of the Annual Meeting were read and signed, and the following members elected:—Honorary, The Rev. C. L. Payne, Writtle; Ringing, Messrs. F. Bumpstead, Braintree; W. Neverd and J. Taylor, Great Bromley; W. Keit, Walthamstow; E. Moat, W. Pavitt, G. Freeman, A. Jarvis, W. Jay, H. Jones, Rettendon; and Mr. H. Bowell, of Ipswich, a distinguished ringer.

Some discussion took place as to certificates of membership, but it was decided that the matter had better stand over for the present. Mr. Maynard suggested that steps should be taken in order to lessen the expenses of members attending meetings of the Association. The opinion of the meeting was favourable to this suggestion, but that at the same time care should be taken not to put the Association to too much expense in this way. The hon. secretary drew attention to the trouble and perplexity caused by members who intend to be present at meetings of the Association neglecting to give notice to him, in order that provision may be made for them.

Mr. Francis, in answer to a vote of thanks to him for his hospitality and kindness, said that he was only too glad to receive the Association, and that he hoped it would not be long before the members met at Waltham Abbey again. Votes of thanks were passed to Mr. Powell for his excellent arrangements for the comfort of the members present and to the hon. secretary.

Amongst those present besides the Waltham Abbey members were Messrs. J. R. Haworth, London; T. Maynard, Walthamstow; E. A. Davies, Barking; A. Deards, Dagenham; Davidson and Smith, Hackney; Sharnbrook, Benington; M. Wood, London; Laffin and McDonald of the Surrey Association; A. Cockey, Esq., of the Lancashire Association; and L. Procter, Esq., Benington.

The Surrey Association.

THE Annual Meeting of the above Association will be held at Croydon, by the kind permission of the Vicar, on Tuesday, July 31st. Belfry open from 1 p.m. Business meeting at the 'Victoria Coffee Tavern,' Church Street, at 5.30 p.m. Tea at 6 p.m. A special service in the parish church at 7 p.m. The Vicar will preside. The tea will be free to ringing members; others, 1s. 6d. each. All ringers are invited to attend.

A. B. CARPENTER for A. B. PERCEVAL, *Hon. Sec.*

Opening of a New Ring of Bells at St. Mary Magdalen, Enfield, Middlesex.

THE consecration of the above church took place on Wednesday, the 18th inst. The church was built and endowed by Mrs. Twells in memory of her late husband, Mr. Twells, who for many years represented the City of London in Parliament. Mrs. Twells also presented a fine ring of eight bells, cast by Messrs. Warner & Sons, Cripplegate; tenor, 20 cwt. The following members of the Ancient Society of College Youths opened the bells: Messrs. Haley, Muskett, Jameson, Gibbs, Marshall, Hayes, Horrex, and Greenleaf. Touches of Grandsire Triples, Stedman's Triples, and Kent Treble Bob Major, were rung during the day.

Muffled Peal at Great Yarmouth, Norfolk.

WE regret having to record the performance of a painful tribute of respect to the memory of the late Rev. G. H. Harris, vicar of Tunstead, Norfolk, and secretary of the Norwich Diocesan Association of Change-ringers, whose untimely death, occasioned by the breaking of his thigh in a fall from his bicycle in April last, has cast a gloom over the whole Association. On the day of his funeral the St. Nicholas Company of Yarmouth, a branch of the above Association, met at St. Nicholas Church, Yarmouth, and with the bells muffled rang 1344 changes of Grandsire Triples in 1 hr. W. Leo (conductor), 1

W. T. Blyth, 2; M. Lang, 3; W. Secret, 4; F. J. W. Bray, 5; W. Fletcher, 6; D. Hayward, 7; W. Chaplin, 8. Tenor, 30 cwt.

At his funeral on the 18th about twenty clergymen attended, besides a great many other friends, and a muffled peal was rung after the service on the bells which he had augmented from five to eight.

Muffled peals were rung at most of the city churches in Norwich during the afternoon, and in the evening finished up on the twelve at St. Peter's Mancroft, ringing three courses of Grandsire Cinques. Ringing the bells down in peal, half muffled, had a grand and solemn effect. Muffled peals were rung at Ipswich, Diss, Yarmouth, Bungay, Redenhall, Alburgh, Aylsham, and Pulham, besides perhaps other places which we have not heard of. The melancholy event has cast quite a gloom over the ringers, amongst whom Mr. Harris was a very great favourite, and it will be a long time before they get over it. He will be a great loss to the Association, in which he took very great interest, and was indefatigable in his exertions to promote the science of change-ringing in any way that lay in his power. His age was fifty-seven.

Muffled Peal at Ipswich, Suffolk.

ON Wednesday, the 18th inst., eight members of the Ipswich branch of the Norwich Diocesan Association attempted a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major at St. Mary-le-Tower Church, with the bells half-muffled, as a mark of respect to the late Rev. G. H. Harris, who was Hon. Sec. to the above Association. After ringing for 2 hrs. 15 mins. it was brought to grief through a shift-course having occurred. E. Pemberton, 1; W. Mobbs, 2; C. Saul, 3; W. L. Catchpole (conductor), 4; I. S. Alexander, 5; R. Hawes, 6; E. Reeve, 7; R. H. Brundle, 8.

Muffled Peals at Aylsham, Marsham, and Buxton, Norfolk.

ON Wednesday, the 18th inst., the Aylsham and Marsham Companies, members of the Norwich Diocesan Association of Ringers, were represented at the funeral of their late Secretary, the Rev. G. H. Harris of Tunstead, by Mr. C. Clements, and on his return to Aylsham eleven ringers met in the belfry, eight of whom rang a muffled peal of 1008 changes, conducted by T. Greenwood. Seldom or ever have the ringers met with heavier hearts, and it appeared difficult to realise that one who was always kind, always genial, and who had a kind word for all, would meet them no more. Muffled peals were also rung by the same companies the following evenings at Marsham and Buxton (the latter a ring of five, lately rehung by Messrs. Day & Son of Eye).

CHANGE-RINGING.

At St. James's, Norton, near Sheffield, Derbyshire.

ON Sunday, the 8th inst., for morning service, a peal of 720 Bob Minor (8 bobs and 6 singles) was rung in 28 mins. J. Goucher, 1; J. Atkin, 2; W. Biggin, 3; H. Ward, 4; J. Biggin, 5; J. Allen (conductor), 6.

Also on June 17th a peal of 720 Bob Minor (16 bobs and 2 singles) was rung in 28 mins. F. Ward, 1; H. Ward, 2; J. Goucher, 3; J. Atkin (conductor), 4; J. Biggin (first peal), 5; J. Allen, 6. Tenor, 11½ cwt., in D.

At Christ Church, Liversedge, Yorkshire.

ON Monday, the 9th inst., the Society of Change-ringers met to celebrate the 83rd birthday of William Sottanstell of Sowerby, by ringing 1883 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major, but owing to a mishap with a wheel casting the rope they had to stand. They met again on the Tuesday night and rang it without a mishap in 1 hr. 10 mins. J. Whitworth, 1; J. Illingworth, 2; W. Firth, 3; T. North, 4; L. Illingworth, 5; J. Goodall, 6; A. Briggs, 7; M. Ramsden, 8. Tenor, 16 cwt. Composed by William Sottanstell, of Sowerby, purposely for the occasion, and conducted by Thomas North.

At St. Michael's, Mottram-in-Longdendale, Cheshire.

ON Thursday, the 19th inst., a peal of Treble Bob Major, in the Kent variation, was rung in 2 hrs. 58 mins. by the Ashton-under-Lyne Society. T. Moss, 1; S. Wood (composer), 2; J. Wood, 3; W. Middleton, 4; B. Broadbent, 5; G. Longden, 6; J. Thorp, 7; F. E. Dawe of London (conductor), 8. Tenor, 12 cwt.

At Castle Donington, Leicestershire.

ON Saturday afternoon, the 21st inst., several members of the Long Eaton Society, who are also members of the Midland Association, visited the above place, and by kind permission of the Vicar, rang the following peals:—720 Kent Treble Bob in 26 mins, called with 15 bobs. W. Grice, 1; W. Gibson, 2; R. Hickton, 3; G. Bradley, 4; J. Ward, 5; J. Barrow (conductor), 6. Also 720 Oxford Treble Bob in 27 mins. J. Barrow, 1; G. Bradley, 2; R. Hickton, 3; W. Gibson, 4; S. Clarke, 5; J. Ward (conductor), 6. Also 720 Bob Minor in 26 mins. G. Bradley, 1; S. Clarke, 2; J. Ward, 3; W. Gibson, 4; W. Grice, 5; J. Barrow (conductor), 6. Also 120 Bob Doubles. G. Bradley, 1; J. Hutchby (Member of Castle Donington Society), 2; S. Clarke, 3; W. Gibson, 4; J. Ward (conductor), 5; W. Grice, 6. Also 120 Stedman's Doubles. J. Barrow (conductor), 1; G. Bradley, 2; J. Ward, 3; R. Hickton, 4; S. Clarke, 5; W. Grice, 6.

At Kennington, near Ashford, Kent.

ON Saturday, the 21st inst., six members of the Mergham Branch of the Kent County Association of Change-ringers rang a peal of Plain Bob Minor in 26 mins. E. Ruck, 1; Rev. R. Knatchbull-Hugessen, 2; C. Paine, 3; G. Finn, jun., 4; F. Finn (conductor), 5; E. Finn, 6. Tenor, 12 cwt. This is the first peal rung on these bells since their number was augmented to six.

At Chester-le-Street, Durham.

LAST week this church, dedicated to St. Cuthbert, celebrated its thousandth anniversary, for an account of which we refer to our picture article and the Bishop of Durham's sermon. Two of the old bells were taken out during the restoration, and melted down with other metal, which has produced a heavy

but melodious ring of six bells:—tenor, 18 cwt. They have been hung in new frames, the whole of the work having been done by Messrs. Taylor & Sons of Loughborough. One old bell still remains. It is hung up above the new bells, and is tolled for curfew every evening at 8. This bell, which weighs between five and six cwt., is over 400 years old. The bells were rung during the day by W. and R. Story, F. Lees, and W. G. Routledge, of Newcastle; W. Reed and R. Smith of North Shields; and G. Clarkson of Stockton; all belonging to the Durham and Newcastle Association. Three 720's were rung during the day, comprising one each of Oxford and Kent Treble, and Oxford Single, Bob Minor.

On Saturday, the 21st inst., a ringing fête was held at this church, to which all members of the above-mentioned Association were invited, but owing to the extreme inclemency of the weather this Society was but poorly represented. There were six from Stockton, three from Newcastle, and two each from North Shields, Staindrop, and South Shields. Five different peals of 720 changes were rung—two of Plain Bob, and one each of Kent Treble Bob, College Single, and Double Court. Service was held in the morning at St. Cuthbert's, at which the Archbishop of York preached. A dinner was provided at the 'Lambton Arms' hotel. Courses of Bob Major and Grandsire Caters were given by the Stockton men on their hand-bells.

At St. John the Baptist's, Staveley, Derbyshire.

On Sunday, the 22nd inst., eight members of the Yorkshire Association rang a peal of 5184 Kent Treble Bob Major in 3 hrs. 22 mins. H. Mottershall, 1; H. Madin, 2; T. Hattersley, 3; J. Harris, 4; A. Knight, 5; W. Worthington, 6; J. Hunt, 7; F. E. Dawe, 8. Tenor, 18 cwt. 3 qrs. 22 lbs., in F. Composed by C. H. Hattersley and conducted by F. E. Dawe of London.

At St. Mary's, Sheffield, Yorkshire.

On Monday, the 23rd inst., eight members of the Ancient Society of College Youths and the Yorkshire Association rang a peal of 5040 Stedman Triples (Brook's Variation) in 3 hrs. 8 mins. C. H. Hattersley (conductor), 1; J. Mulligan, 2; C. Bower, 3; J. W. Mulligan, 4; G. Flint, 5; T. Hattersley, 6; F. E. Dawe, 7; G. Wilson, jun., 8. Tenor, 25 cwt., in D.

At the Parish Church, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire.

On Tuesday, the 24th inst., a peal of Bob Minor was rung on the middle six with the tenor as a cover in 30 mins. W. W. Bust (first peal), 2; H. Tate, 3; J. C. Tinker, 4; M. W. Ashton, 5; W. D. Tinker, 6; E. Mason (conductor), 7; J. Giles, 8. Tenor, 20 cwt.

At All Saints', Sheffield, Yorkshire.

On Tuesday, the 24th inst., eight members of the Yorkshire Association rang Holt's Ten-part Peal of 5040 Grandsire Triples in 2 hrs. 52 mins. J. W. Mulligan, 1; S. Seed, 2; J. Mulligan, 3; F. E. Dawe, 4; C. H. Hattersley, 5; T. Hattersley, 6; G. Flint, 7; G. Wilson, jun., 8. Tenor, 15 cwt., in F.

At St. John's, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

On Tuesday, the 24th inst., a peal of 720 Woodbine Treble Bob was rung in 27 mins. W. Eggleston, 1; C. L. Routledge, 2; F. Dees, 3; W. G. Routledge, 4; W. Story, 5; R. S. Story (conductor), 6. Tenor, 14½ cwt. The first by all the above in this method and also on the bells.

RECEIVED ALSO:—C. L. Routledge—The want of order of which you complain was intentionally done, to accommodate the 'making up' of the pages. You will find it all right in the end.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Crisis in Madagascar.

SIR,—The present position of the Church Mission to Madagascar calls for the active sympathy of all Churchmen. Will you be good enough to allow me to make public, through your columns, the following interesting details?

Our latest advices from Bishop Kestell-Cornish are dated May 31 from Antananarivo, the capital. The notables of the city had refused the demands of the French, and decided upon war. The excitement was intense. Troops were being despatched in different directions by the Prime Minister, who is also the Royal Consort and Commander-in-Chief. French residents, religious and secular, had been ordered to leave the capital, but the English had received a letter from the Prime Minister begging them to remain in the city, and promising to do his best to protect them. The feeling against the French clergy and sisters was so strong, and the outlook was so threatening, that, on May 25th, Bishop Kestell-Cornish wrote to the Prime Minister's son, a great noble, pointing out to him the evil that must certainly follow any ill-treatment of defenceless persons. On the following Sunday, May 27, he received a visit from this nobleman, and again urged upon him most earnestly the need of immediate protection being afforded them. The following day five of the Jesuit fathers called on the Bishop and implored him to use his influence with the Prime Minister to obtain bearers for the ladies of the Mission, and to get a letter conveyed to him, as he had refused to receive the sisters' letter. The same day the acting Secretary of the London Missionary Society saw the Bishop, and consulted with him as to the safety of British subjects, which resulted in the calling a meeting of British, and in the final formation of a Committee, with the Bishop as permanent chairman. At the meeting one of the London Missionary Society clergy was voted into the chair. There were thirty British subjects present, four Norwegians, and three American citizens, and it was resolved to invite all Norwegian and American citizens in the province of Imerina to associate themselves with them. On May 29, at the first meeting of the Committee, a resolution was passed that the Chairman and Secretary (Mr. Wilson) should use their influence with the Malagasy Acting Foreign Secretary to procure bearers for the French, which resulted in the safe departure of the Jesuit fathers and

sisters and other French subjects under a military escort. The Bishop had got into his new house; Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Smith and the students had gone in from the College; the St. George's ensign was floating from the roof of the Clergy House; and all were close together in the event of sudden disturbance. The Mission party were in good health, and though anxious as to the final result, in good spirits. On Trinity Sunday, May 20, Ignatius Rafilibera, a Hova, was ordained priest—the first native advanced to that holy order. The Bishop speaks of his having passed a very good examination, especially in *Pearson* and Book V. of Hooker's *Ecclesiastical Polity*. He speaks of the man as very good and spiritually minded, and much resorted to by the Malagasy. Thus at the moment of writing the Bishop entertained the brightest hopes of a future native ministry, whilst fears and anxieties as to our future position in the island were filling all minds. The Bishop was being universally respected, and leaned upon in the hour of distress.

Surely it is not too much to ask for the prayers of all the faithful at this juncture—(1), for the safety of the Mission party, of our own Communion, and of all, Europeans or natives, naming the name of Christ; (2), that the grace of perseverance and steadfastness may be granted to all Christian converts in the hour of trial; and (3), that the present political troubles may issue in the honour and glory of God and to the good of His Church. And, inasmuch as a special blessing is granted to united prayer, I would suggest that all interested in the welfare of Madagascar should unite their intercessions for Madagascar and its Christianity at the altar on Sunday, the 29th inst. And I shall further feel it a great kindness in any clergy who will concede my request sending me their names and addresses, that I may, by next mail, write and assure the Bishop of the deep sympathy we all feel for him at the present time. I do not dwell on the Tamatave bombardment, as the daily papers have given full details. In conclusion, may I be allowed to state that there is a Prayer Union for the Church Mission in Madagascar, the papers of which I shall be glad to forward to any persons who may be willing to join it? The Bishop of Winchester is the President, Prebendary Wood-Stephens is the Hon. Secretary. My address from July 21 to 31 will be to the care of Robert Frost, Esq., Queen's Park, Chester. I am sending a copy of this letter to the other Church papers.

RAYNES W. W. DICKSON, *Hon. Treasurer and Assistant Secretary*
Madagascar Prayer Union.

Church Attendance in the East End.

SIR,—In reference to Mr. Fillingham's misstatement as to East-end Church attendance, you may see fit to insert the following passage from a letter written by me to the *Echo*, the week before last:—

'1. He has, on a Sunday morning, credited six of the Haggerston churches with an average of 36—my own he puts down at 38—as a congregation. I am able to assert that our ordinary morning attendance is between 300 and 500, and in the evening between 500 and 800; and I am prepared to prove from our Church books that the average number of our communicants alone is on every alternate Sunday more than twice the number stated by him as the whole congregation, and with those who attend the first celebration, that it is about 100, and that on special days the morning communicants are always more than 200. At Easter we had 319, on Ascension Day (all before 9 a.m.) they were 214, and on Whitsun morning 256.

'2. We have on our roll—open to his or any one's inspection—over 400 *bond fide* communicants.

'3. It is childish for him to argue that other statistics are irrelevant. They are everything as regards the point at issue—the comparative utility or inutility of East-end churches. I ask your readers, therefore, to consider the following facts in relation to the point of contention, *i.e.*, Church work in the East End *v.* Church work in the City.

'(a) The Christian Faith is taught daily in this parish to 700 children; on Sunday to at least as many.

'(b) We have 74 unpaid adult church workers.

'(c) At the time of morning service in the parish church apother of a shorter kind is taking place at one of the schools for the younger children.

'(d) We have a mission church also, well used by the poorest of the people.

'(e) We have more than a dozen different agencies by which, as well as by fifteen weekday services, we do our best on weekdays to reach for good every class, age, and need of our thousands of parishioners.

'These, Sir, are a few facts open to the investigation of any of your readers. Mr. Fillingham has, on the other hand, merely made assertions which we declare to be unfounded and injurious. He may say, "I was not aware of these facts which you mention." Of course we reply, "You have no right to make damaging public assertions without having taken due pains to obtain full information." I am not an advocate for the demolition of City churches. If I could be persuaded, it would be by Mr. Fillingham. He is likely to do his cause a vast injury.'

S. J. STONE, *Vicar of St. Paul's, Haggerston.*

SIR,—Once more may I plead with you for a little space, for the letters of Mr. Fillingham and my own seem to have produced a great deal of argument, which it is to be hoped will prove beneficial to the Church. The reply of the Bishop of Bedford's must surely have caused him pain. He says it is 'unfair to judge East London churches by their morning service.' It is most unfair to judge by any other means. It is the morning service, whether it be North or East London, that we have a right to expect every one to attend. I fear we are not likely to get many while Bishops go out of their way to protest against such 'unfairness.' Which is the 'Divine service' that we are to attend, whether we live East or West, for I submit there is no difference as far as this is concerned? It seems difficult to understand the Bishop's protest, and at the same time to read the Divine command, 'Do this in remembrance of Me;' and if the great portion of London only come to church of an evening occasionally, what can be thought of those who speak of it without disapproval?

Only this morning I glanced at a book published by the Rector of